

LONE PINE STATE PARK INTERPRETIVE MASTER PLAN



COMPLETED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE LONE PINE STATE PARK
INTERPRETIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE IN 2006

Acknowledgements

Montana State Parks would like to recognize the Lone Pine State Park Interpretive Planning Committee for their contributions in both time and energy throughout the Lone Pine State Park interpretive planning process. Without the committee members' dedication to the process and their resources and innovation, this plan would not have been possible.

Lone Pine State Park Interpretive Planning Committee Members:

Jane Adams – Flathead Audubon Society
Teresa Wenum – United State Forest Service - Conservation Education Specialist
Bill Peterson – Central School Museum - Director
Colleen Sullivan – Whitefish High School, Biology Teacher
Tim Light – United States Forest Service – Archaeologist
Tom Gillespie – Somers Middle School – History Teacher
Todd Garrett – Whitefish City Parks and Recreation
Carolyn Sime – Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks - Wolf Management Specialist
Rochelle Pope- Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks- Interpretive Specialist
Ken Soderberg - Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks – Visitor Services Bureau Chief
Dave Landstrom - Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks – Park Operations Supervisor

The area now known as Lone Pine State Park was first recognized in recent history by a single stately Ponderosa Pine at the top of the hill. This tree served as a landmark helping to guide travelers along the route from Flathead Lake north. The “One Tree” or “Lone Pine” as it was referred to no longer exists, however the next landmark on the journey can still be seen directly across from Flathead Valley Community College near the ball fields. This stately Ponderosa Pine was referred to as the “Spring Pine” for the fresh water spring that once flowed past the tree, the spring has since been diverted for agriculture.

Lone Pine remains a landmark in the Flathead Valley, and provides a lofty perch from which to view the Flathead Valley; one of the most rapidly growing communities in the United States. The park's forested acres, miles of hiking trails, and Interpretive Center provide the perfect setting from which to study the natural and human forces that have shaped the Flathead Valley landscape. It is this relationship that is the focus of the Lone Pine State Park Master Interpretive Plan.



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Management Analysis

Lone Pine State Park, was added to the Montana State Park system in 1947, making it one of the oldest state parks in Montana. The Park spans 223 acres five miles southwest of Kalispell, and is located on a series of limestone bluffs overlooking the city and the Flathead Valley. Ernest and Hazel White donated the original 162 acres of parkland to the state in 1941. A series of land purchases, trades and donations from Flathead County and park neighbors, along with the acquisition of 41 acres on the park's east boundary in 2001, have brought the park to its current size.

The White donation stipulated that the park be developed for public enjoyment and to teach appreciation for the benefits of conservation. In 2003, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) developed the Lone Pine State Park Management Plan, a comprehensive management tool for the park. FWP collaborated with a citizen-based planning committee, guided by input from the general public, to identify park issues and trends and formulate management goals, objectives, policies and actions. This plan provides a vision and work plan to conserve the park's natural resources, provide recreational opportunities for park users, and develop educational and interpretive opportunities for Flathead Valley residents and visitors. The following issues were addressed by the planning committee:

Planning Issues

1. Vegetation

Currently, FWP treats noxious weeds throughout Lone Pine's grounds; however, ecological management at the park is not comprehensive. The park does not have a forest management plan or an integrated weed management program. In addition, trail degradation from visitor use and erosion is negatively impacting park ecology. The park suffers from a severe Dwarf Mistletoe infection in Douglas fir and larch stands, and Ponderosa pine stands are gradually disappearing due to interspecies competition, fire suppression and disease.

Management Actions:

- Implement comprehensive forest management
- Develop a comprehensive weed management program

2. Interpretation

Montana State Parks has implemented some components of the 1998 Lone Pine Preliminary Interpretive Plan. However, the park needs to refine and implement the entire plan. Paramount to this effort is the need for a phased action plan to facilitate thematic, professional-grade interpretation and programming and to establish the facility as a regionally significant source of information for resident and non-resident visitors alike.

Management Actions:

- Refine interpretive goals and themes of the Lone Pine Preliminary Interpretive Plan

- Allocate State Park resources (staffing and funding) to implementing and improving interpretive services.
- Expand current interpretive programming.
- Develop an integrated interpretive program system throughout the Flathead Valley.
- Establish the Interpretive Center as the focal point from which visitors can experience the rest of the park.

3. Visitor Conflict

Visitor conflicts between various user groups (i.e. bicycle, horseback and pedestrian) are occurring on Lone Pine's trail system. Mitigation needs to address trail requirements for different trail uses, and enforcement of horse and pet regulations. Mitigation also needs to address user impacts on park trails.

Management Actions:

- Create educational programs, beyond signage, on domestic stock and pet regulations
- Develop a trail-signing program to minimize trail user conflict
- Increase visitor contacts and provide education pertaining to trail etiquette.
- Increase education about the archery range area.

4. Trails

Lone Pine's trail system suffers from user conflicts, trail damage due to visitor use and erosion, and inadequate mapping and signage.

Management Actions:

- Inventory and address severely damaged segments of trail, and segments with potential for severe damage
- Institute trail-specific closures on trail conditions for events such as spring break-up
- Coordinate with regional trail planning efforts to link Lone Pine with larger trail systems

5. Future Development

Development of a parking lot and connecting trail at the Valley View entrance to Lone Pine, as well as basic site protection at the Foy's Lake parcel is necessary. Parkland uses and development need to be addressed in a comprehensive manner consistent with current levels of development at the Park.

Management Actions

- Integrate the September 2002, 41-acre land acquisition into the park.
- Provide basic development of the Foy's Lake property.

FWP and the Interpretive Planning Committee believes that many of these issues and possible solutions may be integrated into interpretive materials and programs.

In 1984, the Montana legislature authorized capital funding to construct the Lone Pine Interpretive Center and grounds. Today, Lone Pine has become an important resource for outdoor recreation and education in the Flathead Valley. Thousands of visitors use the park's hiking trails for exercise and exploration. The interpretive Center serves as a classroom for area schools, a venue for interpretive programs and workshops, and a meeting place for community organizations. In 2005 capital funding was approved to renovate the Lone Pine State Interpretive Center. This funding has been provided to address the need for providing high quality interactive and static interpretive displays and equipment and to address efficiency and safety issues with the current building. When the renovation is complete, the Lone Pine Interpretive Center will embody elements of the Park's interpretive mission by incorporating design features that promote efficiency and reduce fire danger. Landscaping changes are aimed at reducing wildlife conflicts and irrigation needs. The landscaping plan will also serve interpretation goals by providing opportunities to display native plant communities.

Lone Pine State Park offers scenic overlooks that provide commanding views of the Flathead Valley and surrounding mountain ranges. A self-guided interpretive walk has been developed to highlight these vantage points. The Lone Pine archery range on the park's west side provides a safe practice facility for local archers, and the park's picnic grounds and shelter are ideally located to Kalispell for outdoor gatherings.

INTERPRETIVE PLANNING

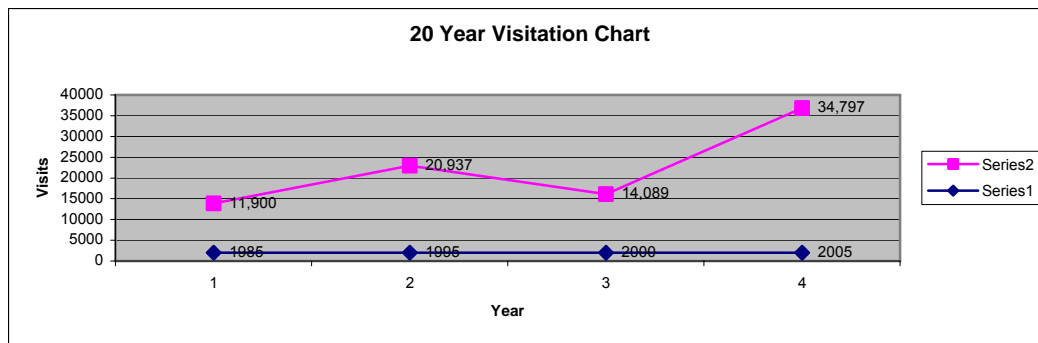
In 1998 the Lone Pine State Park Preliminary Interpretive Plan was completed to guide the park in development of interpretive displays and programming. The plan was a collaborative effort involving citizens with a wide diversity of interests and talents. To date, the plan has guided the development of interpretive and education programs, displays within the Interpretive Center, and a self guided interpretive walk along Lone Pine's scenic overlooks.

In 2003 The Lone Pine State Park Interpretive Planning Committee was assembled to build on the 1998 plan, and complete a master interpretive plan. This document captures the work accomplished by this committee, and is intended to guide the development of interpretive displays and programs at the park.

VISITATION

Visitation to Lone Pine State Park has steadily increased over the past five years. FWP estimates that 28,154 visits were made to Lone Pine in 2004, up from an estimated 16,224 in 2000.

Visitation to Lone Pine State Park for 2005 was estimated at 34,797 visits. This represents a 19% increase over 2004, continuing an upward trend that coincides with the rapid growth of the Flathead Valley.



In 2003, an interpretive specialist position was initiated in Region 1, significantly increasing programming and visitation at the Lone Pine Interpretive Center. Programs were offered centering on the following broad based goals to reach specific target markets.

1. Development of K-6 program
2. Development of 6-12 program
3. Promote use by Flathead Valley Community College for field study courses

Interpretive contacts made in 2004 and 2005.

Program Type	2004	2005	% increase/decrease
Field Trips	34	44	+ 29%
Students on Field Trips	845	1160	+ 37%
General Audience	24	42	+ 75%
Program Participants	205	595	+ 190%
Visitor Center Visits	1803	3265	+ 81%

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT--URBAN WILD LAND INTERFACE

Lone Pine State Park is located on the southwest edge of Kalispell, the largest city in Flathead County. Between 1990-2000, the Flathead County population grew by over 25% to 79,485, and it is currently near the 100,000 mark. Flathead County is now growing more rapidly than any county in Montana. The City of Kalispell is home to approximately 17,381 people (Census, 2004) and grew by 36% in the 1990s.

Lone Pine State Park is increasingly becoming a primary recreation resource for the community of Kalispell, and the park's 230 acres and five miles of developed trails are heavily used by repeat visitors. The park offers exceptional views of Kalispell, the Swan and Whitefish ranges, Flathead Lake and Glacier National Park. Wildlife sightings are frequent throughout the park, and the park is becoming an island of habitat as surrounding lands are rapidly developed for residential dwellings.

Lone Pine staff are developing and implementing strategies to address common urban wild land interface issues such as noxious weeds, wildfire prevention, and wildlife conflicts.

FISCAL YEAR OPERATIONS AND PERSONAL SERVICES BUDGET

Operations

Fiscal year 2006 -- \$24,797.00

This budget funds all operations and routine maintenance at The Interpretive Center and on park grounds.

Personal Services

Fiscal Year 2006 -- \$67,892.00 --1.76 FTE

- .75 - Interpretive Specialist (on site)
- .30 - Administrative Support (off site)
- .57 - Maintenance (off site)
- .14 - General Support (off site)

A volunteer Park host lives on site and assists with all aspects of park operations at Lone Pine.

Major Maintenance & Grants

Lone Pine receives supplemental funding for special projects. Major maintenance projects that are initiated to improve visitor services or repair damaged or unsafe facilities may be allocated to Lone Pine based on regional priorities and maintenance backlogs. Lone Pine State Park has been the recipient of federal grants earmarked for special projects. In the past ten years, two federal grants have been awarded for trails projects within the park.

Market Analysis

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES AND PROJECTIONS FOR FLATHEAD COUNTY

From 1990-2000, the population of Flathead County grew over 25% to 79,485 and is continuing to increase. In 2004, Flathead County became the fastest growing county in Montana with no indications of slowing down. Between 2000 and 2004 the population for the City of Kalispell increased 34% in addition to a 36% increase experienced in the 1990s.

During the first nine months of 2005, Lone Pine State Park has an estimated 28,401 visits with three months remaining. Visitation is up from 2004 total visits of 28,154 and 16,224 visits in 2000.

Population Statistics (2000 Census)

Kalispell -- 17,381
Greater Kalispell -- 32,107
Columbia Falls -- 3,800
Whitefish -- 5,032
Greater Whitefish -- 6,500
Flathead County -- 79,485
Montana -- 902,195

Schools by Grade

Kindergarten to Sixth Grade

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Bigfork School | 10. Evergreen | 21. Olney |
| 2. Cayuse Prairie | 11. Fair-Mont-Egan | 22. Pleasant Valley |
| 3. Mountain Brook | 12. Helena Flats | 23. Smith Valley |
| 4. Canyon Community | 13. Hedges | 24. Somers |
| 5. Columbia Falls West Annex | 14. Edgerton | 25. Swan River |
| 6. Glacier Gateway | 15. Elrod | 26. West Glacier |
| 7. Ruder | 16. Peterson | 27. West Valley |
| 8. Creston | 17. Russell | 28. Muldown |
| 9. East Evergreen | 18. Kila | 29. Whitefish Central |
| | 19. Marion | |
| | 20. Bissell | |

Seventh Grade to Eight/Ninth Grade

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Bigfork | 7. Kalispell Jr. High School | 13. Olney |
| 2. Cayuse Prairie | | 14. Smith Valley |
| 3. Columbia Falls | 8. Helena Flats | 15. Somers |
| 4. Deer Park | 9. Linderman | 16. Swan River |
| 5. Evergreen School | 10. Kila | 17. West Valley |
| 6. Fair-Mont-Egan | 11. Marion | 18. Whitefish Central |
| | 12. Bissell | |

Ninth Grade to Twelfth Grade

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. Bigfork | 3. Eagle | 5. Whitefish |
| 2. Columbia Falls | 4. Flathead | |

Flathead Valley Community College (FVCC) is fully accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and colleges and offers a myriad of opportunities for educational advancement, including a diverse array of two-year degrees including business management, goldsmithing, surveying, forestry, and a transfer curriculum. Non-credit community education classes, business workshops and business training classes are also available for individuals seeking to broaden their educational horizons.

EXISTING AND POTENTIAL MARKETS AT LONE PINE STATE PARK

School Groups

Historically, Lone Pine State Park was not sufficiently staffed to develop and provide school programming for more than a limited number of students. School groups had already been identified as a priority market group by the preliminary interpretive plan. Therefore, a large block of time was dedicated to developing resources for this user group. The result was an 85% increase in school field trips to Lone Pine State Park from public, private and homeschool groups in the first year for a total of 33 field trips. In the second year 44 field trips were completed at Lone Pine State Park providing an additional 33% increase.

School groups were willing to travel from as far away as Troy, Montana (over 90 miles) and Polson, Montana (60 miles) to the south, to participate in field trips offered by the interpretive specialist at Lone Pine State Park. This increase in numbers and willingness to travel long distances indicated a need that was clearly not being met prior to 2004.

Two field trip opportunities were developed, using the *Northwest Montana Curriculum Cooperative Standards*, *1997 Conservation Education Survey* and, *Preliminary Interpretive Plan* as a guide for field trip topics, content and age appropriateness. Field trips targeted Kindergarten through sixth grade students in northwest Montana and were publicized through mailings to sixty schools and several area homeschool contacts.

In addition, various schools also used the park on their own for self-guided experiences. These include the Flathead Valley Community College Geology Class, Flathead High School Physical Education class hike, Polson Middle School 6th grade Picnic and, Hedges School 2nd grade hike and picnic.

Trail Users

Hikers, trail runners, mountain bikers, equestrians, dog walkers and, casual visitors all use the Lone Pine State Park trail system for recreation and training opportunities. Trail users have different reasons for visiting Lone Pine State Park than other visitors because they often have a distinct goal for using the park. Many visitors use the park to train for races or as preparation for the summer hiking season; this user group composes the majority of the frequent/repeat visitors to Lone Pine State Park.

Trail users may or may not be aware that there is an interpretive center at the park and may or may not be interested in learning more about the park. Lone Pine State Park

provides a location close to town that offers a variety of terrain and distances to provide quality experiences for this market group.

Many of the interpretive efforts for this group may be a result of management directives. Regulations, such as closed areas or resource damage reduction efforts, will need to be aimed at this group, in a positive manner through interpretation to improve compliance and understanding of these issues. In 2004, new directional and regulation signing was posted to improve the quality experience trail users (specifically hikers, mountain bikers and, equestrians) have at Lone Pine State Park. Equestrians and mountain bikers were identified as two groups who were damaging the trail resources on the Lower Cliff Trail. Through new signing, stating which groups the trail is open to (hikers) and not groups it is closed to (equestrians and mountain bikers) and, efforts by park staff to make personal contacts with this user group on the trail, park staff observed a reduction in the number of visitors who were not supposed to be using the trail. As a result, park staff witnessed less resource damage for the remainder of the 2004 season. This should continue to be monitored for its effectiveness and adapted as necessary to meet future needs.

Casual Recreationists

Visitors to Lone Pine State Park who arrive by chance, for a quick view at the overlook or just because they wanted to know what was up on top of the hill, can be described as a separate market group: the casual recreationists market. Often they do not have expectations for what they will experience and are open to any information and experiences that are presented to them. Casual recreationists can be locals who have never been to the park before, families of conference attendees looking for something to do, or tourists who just happened to see the highway sign. This market may also include, wedding parties, family reunions, picnickers and, artists. Lone Pine State Park Interpretive Center receives many visits a day from this market user group.

Park staff recorded the number of visitors to the Interpretive Center and roving (casual staff-visitor contacts around the park) interpretive contacts for the first time in 2004. Continuing this process into the future is highly recommended to gain a better understanding of this market and the other markets, as well as, increase visitor awareness about the programs and services offered.

Information Seekers

Visitors to Lone Pine State Park, who come for the specific purpose of gathering information and gaining insight, are considered information seekers. This market group is likely to visit the park only if there is something to learn or someone to ask questions to. Depending on the quality of the park experience for them as an individual, they may also have an increased willingness to spend time or become repeat visitors and program participants. For this reason interpretation is an important tool in satisfying this market group's needs.

Due to their willingness to take information in, this market is most likely to participate in interpretive opportunities including, programs, displays, exhibits and signing. These experiences generally require a longer willingness to spend time to complete. Casual recreationists are also likely to become repeat visitors if their experiences are enjoyable.

The Information Seekers market is comprised of people from all backgrounds and life experiences. Therefore, providing a variety of interpretive opportunities for their different needs can be difficult without the appropriate planning. Interpretive programs should be on a variety of topics that complement the Lone Pine State Park interpretive mission and theme. Interpretive displays should be produced for a variety of learning styles and provide for adaptability to the current science, research and attitudes. Interpretive facilities should also be accessible for all people to enjoy them with ease.

Local Organizations/Partners









This market is generally established on an as needed basis by either the park or the organization. Lone Pine State Park has a history of working with local agencies, non-profit organizations, interest groups and clubs, often forming project partnerships. Past partnerships and projects include:

- Audubon Society – meeting space trade for public programs
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters – free room rental
- Flathead Archers Association –Annual Archery Shoot (Tournament)
- Flathead Orienteering –Annual Spring Orienteering Competition
- Kalispell Junior High School Adventure Club – Annual Lone Pine Grind (Race)
- Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) – Mini-BOW workshop
- Buffalo Hills Terrace (assisted living facility) – resident programming and field trips
- Flathead Community of Resource Educators (CORE) – training for education professionals

Future partnerships should be encouraged to create a community network and dialog for opportunities and projects.

Area Attractions

What other places attract visitors to Flathead Valley?

-  The Big Mountain Resort
-  Glacier National Park
-  Flathead National Forest and Bob Marshall Wilderness
-  Flathead Lake
-  Central School Museum
-  Conrad Mansion
-  Hockaday Art Museum
-  Drive through location en route to Canada

Promotional Materials

Lone Pine State Park uses a variety of methods to promote its facilities, programs, and services. Statewide publications including the State Parks brochures, and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks website are used to provide general information to the public. The website also provides a link for “Upcoming Events” on which all Lone Pine State Park events are listed by date.

Locally, park programs and events are listed through the local chambers of commerce, promoted on the Montana Radio Café at 101.9 FM, listed in the local newspaper; *The*

Daily Inter-Lake, and are occasionally highlighted on the local news or in the “Montana Outdoors” section of the paper.

From within the park, all programs are displayed at the visitor center, restrooms, and in park kiosks. The Lone Pine State Park newsletter, *The Pine Cone*, is distributed to 250 signed up recipients and includes all the programs, services and helpful information, such as management concerns i.e., biking on restricted trails, as needs arise.

STATISTICS

Programs and services

	2004	2005
Total Park Visitation	28,154	28,401 (1/1-9/1)
Visits to Interpretive Center	2,044	3,265
Roving Interpretive Contacts	Not Recorded	879
Public Interpretive Programs	24	42
Public Program Participation	150	595
Special Events	4	3
Special Event Participants	212	250
Field Trips	33	44
Field Trip Participants	833	1160

Long-term data has not been recorded for Lone Pine State Park, however, staff surveyed and observed visitor use from Spring 2004 through Fall 2005 and discovered the following:

1. Attendance to programs increased over the course of summer 2004 as people became aware of what was offered at Lone Pine State Park. Programs geared for preschoolers (ages 4-7) and families derived greater attendance from the public. Several special events were hosted this year including, the 24th Annual Lone Pine Archery Shoot, the first time Lone Pine Grind (Adventure Race), and the first Mini BOW (Becoming an Outdoors Woman) Workshop. The center also hosted meetings, weddings and concerts.

Program Type	Average attendance	No. of Times offered
Preschool Age (Story & a Picnic) -	8	5
School Age (Junior Ranger) -	.4	5
Family Programs (Saturday Evening)-	9 (rained out 2x)	8 (10)
Adult Programs (Workshops/Lectures)	8	4

Summary of Guest Survey Results for Lone Pine State Park

100% of guests surveyed would like to return for another program

Average group size was 0-4 people

89% of guests surveyed stated they reside in Flathead Valley

10% of guests surveyed stated they reside somewhere other than Montana

1% of guests surveyed stated they reside in Montana, but not in Flathead Valley

(This survey was completed with basic forms handed out randomly to program participants on site. Guests surveyed were requested to turn in their survey to a staff member, donation box or fee station in the park

This method of observation and surveying should be continued to develop a database and continued knowledge of visitor experiences and desires. Other visitor use, dynamics, and information surveys should be developed and conducted to assist managers and interpreters in developing facilities and programs at Lone Pine State Park.

Program Accessibility

The interpretive center, picnic shelter and interpretive trail are accessible and used for programming. Within the past 12 months, park staff observed very few visitors with accessibility needs. One blind student attended a field trip with an aid and less than ten wheel chair users were seen at the park. The majority of programs were held at the interpretive center and corresponding lawn area, which is accessible; however; those with visible accessibility needs attended no public programs.

Special Events (what, when, attendance)

2004 Special Events

Month	Event	Description	Attendance
April	Annual Archery Shoot	The Flathead Archers host this annual tournament by setting up two archery courses with life size animal targets.	120
May	Lone Pine Grind	A fundraiser for the Kalispell Junior High School Adventure Club. This race is co-run by the Adventure Club, Summit, and State Park staff.	60
July	Mini-BOW	Based on the National Becoming an Outdoors Woman Workshop, this mini-weekend session hosts a small number of women and provides opportunities to try new things including: kayaking, archery, riflery and mountain biking.	12
August	Jack Gladstone Concert	45-minute outdoor concert hosted by Jack Gladstone. Donations were requested rather than a fee charged.	20

2005 Special Events

Month	Event	Description	Attendance
April	Annual Archery Shoot	The Flathead Archers host this annual tournament by setting up two archery courses with life size animal targets.	120
May	Lone Pine Grind	A fundraiser for the Kalispell Junior High School Adventure Club. This race is co-run by the Adventure Club, Summit, and State Park staff.	100
July	Mini-BOW	Based on the National Becoming an Outdoors Woman Workshop, this mini-weekend session hosts a small number of women and provides opportunities to try new things including: kayaking, archery, riflery and mountain biking.	30

Message/Delivery Concept

In spring 2004 the Lone Pine State Park Interpretive Planning Committee, composed of interested individuals and organizations, was brought together to guide development of the Lone Pine State Park Interpretive Master Plan. Through the course of several meetings the mission, vision, theme, goals and objectives were developed for the Interpretive Center as a committee.

Lone Pine State Park Interpretive Mission Statement

The mission of the Lone Pine Interpretive Center is to strengthen visitor's knowledge of human relationships to the land through interpretation of past, present and, future human-caused changes in Flathead Valley.

Lone Pine State Park Interpretive Vision for 2010

To be known for quality exhibits and programs educating visitors about human relationships to the land and understanding their impact on the natural world.

Central Interpretive Theme

The way I choose to live in relation to my natural surrounding affects the future sustainability of those surroundings.

Interpretive Goals

1. The interpretive program will foster stewardship actions on the part of visitors while they are at Lone Pine State Park and when they leave.
2. Visitors will have a better understanding of FWP programs that foster stewardship and conservation across Montana.
3. Human choices lead to outcomes that are both short and long-term and can range from individual to cumulative in scope
4. Throughout the park visitors will experience stewardship in action.
5. Visitors will experience, exhibits, displays, programs and activities designed to reach a wide range of audiences and learning styles by engaging as many senses as possible.
6. Visitors will leave with the knowledge of how human communities have interacted with the Flathead Valley landscape over time.
7. Visitors will understand that a community's quality of life can be forever enhanced when the open spaces like Lone Pine State Park that offer scenery, solitude and views are preserved.

Interpretive Objectives

	Objective	Goal
A	Visitors will participate in a park-wide recycling program. Recyclables will be deposited into appropriate containers.	1,2,3
B	At least one park sponsored "Stewardship Day" will be held allowing visitors to participate in a volunteer work day that contributes to the care of the park.	1,2,3
C	In five years, the improvements to the Lone Pine Interpretive Center will be made to make it an example of defensible space and energy efficiency.	1,2,4
D	No more than six human caused wildlife conflicts will occur inside the park each year.	1,2,3
E	Present social trails will be reduced by 50% in the next two years through education and interpretive programs, as well as, management actions.	1,3,4,6
F	Visitors will be able to list at least three plant or animal populations that have been affected by Flathead Valley growth.	5
G	Visitors will be able to list at least two ways they can individually make changes in their lifestyles to support stewardship of natural resources.	1,2
H	Visitors will be able to identify Native American Indian uses of the Flathead Valley and how they relate to human influences of the valley.	5
I	Visitors will be able to contrast three ways humans have affected the landscapes of Flathead Valley.	5
J	Lone Pine State Park will have a return visitation directly related to the visitors desire to seek scenery, solitude, and view.	6
K	Visitor contributions in time and money for interpretive and education programs will increase by 25%.	6
L	Formation of a park "friends group" to enhance stewardship of the park will be accomplished in two years as a result of interest in interpretive programs.	1,3,4,6
M	Items sold at Lone Pine State Park will be selected based on their content, which supports stewardship and conservation actions.	2

Interpretive Sub-Themes and Corresponding Storylines

Changes Over Time - Our individual stewardship choices contribute to the cumulative sustainability of our surroundings.

1. Invasive plant species have created habitat changes in the Flathead Valley.
2. Wildlife populations are affected by human activities such as recreation and development.
3. Recreation habits have changed the way we humans interact with the landscape. (Recreation has helped to shape the landscape).
4. Modern day recreation has created user conflicts.
5. Recreation trends change land management.

Humans And The Land - The individual choice to preserve Lone Pine State Park led to a cumulative impact on Flathead Valley's quality of life.

1. Ernest and Hazel White were owners of the property that they donated to the State of Montana in 1941 for recreation and forestry. They operated the property as a sheep ranch and hosted a boy scout cabin at the top of the hill. The flagpole base is still present.
2. Family pets have significant impacts on wild animals.
3. Human/wildlife encounters lead to deaths of both species.
4. Wildflowers at Lone Pine State Park allow a person an escape from everyday life.
5. Sprawling construction breaks apart natural animal pathways, ecosystems and processes.
6. Defensible space allows humans to live safely and in unison with the land surrounding their home.
7. The human "footprint" on the landscape extends past their homesite:
 - i. Dogs at large
 - ii. Artificial feeding/attractants of wildlife
 - iii. "Living with Wildlife" do's and don'ts
8. The changing Flathead Valley and the affect on our quality of life.
9. As peoples desire to "own their piece of the valley" is increasing, public land access is becoming more difficult to provide.
10. People view the values of a community in a variety of ways, which often conflict with each other.
11. One hundred fifty years of vegetation changes, due to humans changing natural processes.
12. Forest succession is an ongoing process that always leads to the death of that forest type for the birth of another.

Natural Processes - The Flathead Valley was formed over time by natural forces working in concert and opposition with each other.

1. Vast waterways shape and influence the Flathead Valley.
2. Glaciers carved the Flathead Valley and created lakes and waterways.
3. Fire had been a dynamic player in shaping the Flathead Valley.
4. Geology of Flathead Valley.
5. The Flathead Valley contains most of America's large and glamorous predators.
6. Lone Pine State Park provides habitat for a diversity of plants and animals.
7. Lone Pine State Park provides a view of how water has shaped the Flathead Valley over time.
8. Fire is an integral part of a healthy landscape.
9. Native species versus non-native species.
10. Plants and animals change their habitat and habits because of human influence.
11. Competitive exclusion of plant and animal species
12. Forest succession is an outgoing natural process; human actions have altered the pace and outcome of those processes.
 - Change of species
 - Lack of fire
 - Human safety in the human/wildland interface.

13. The change in Flathead Valley vegetation types over the past 150 years.

History-The Flathead Valley's natural resources have provided humans with a means of survival and opportunity.

1. Coeur d'Alene, Salish, Flathead and, Blackfoot Indians utilized the Flathead prior to settlement.
2. David Thompson explored this region prior to the Lewis and Clark expedition, developing maps and identifying resources.
3. Settlers developed vast trade and transportation networks to exploit the wealth of natural resources in the Flathead Valley.
4. Ernest and Hazel White donated this property for conservation education and outdoor recreation in 1947.
5. World-class recreational opportunities have become a major resource for current Flathead Valley inhabitants and visitors.

Fish, Wildlife and Parks - Managing natural resources such as fish, wildlife and, recreational lands is challenging in a rapidly changing landscape.

1. At Lone Pine State Park, we balance both human and wildlife needs.
2. FWP works to conserve both native and introduced fish and wildlife.
3. Lone Pine State Park strives to demonstrate stewardship through example
4. In the Flathead Valley, we live with wildlife in our backyards, our individual choices make a difference.
5. Taking care of our watershed has direct benefits to water based recreation such as fishing and boating, not to mention personal health.
6. FWP stewardship programs contribute to the quality of life for this and future generations.
 - Conservation easements
 - Recreation access (FAS, Block Management)
 - Habitat Montana
 - Native species restoration

Media and Mechanics

For the purpose of this plan “Media” and “Mechanics” can be best described as any method used to communicate the interpretive messages including personal programs, exhibits, waysides, brochures, website, audio visual programs, visitor flow, exhibit layout and architectural or facility design features.

Assistance from an interpretive services planner will be sought to help address and complete these section of the plan in terms of personal programs, web site development, exhibit components, outdoor waysides and signs and audio-visual components and as feasible within the constraints of building design and budget architectural or facility design features.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Exhibits

- ☐ Provide long-term professionally developed exhibits in the exhibit room.
- ☐ Provide movable short-term/rotational displays and exhibits in the classroom.
- ☐ Provide self-guided interpretive opportunities around the park through interpretive trails and waysides.
- ☐ Provide a quality experience that will affect both local and out of area visitors.
- ☐ Provide interactive exhibits that will stimulate all learning styles and ages.

Website

- ☐ Provide “virtual tour”
- ☐ Provide online Lone Pine curriculum for teachers

Printed Materials

- ☐ Develop Park “brand”
- ☐ Develop trail guides
- ☐ Improve Park rack card
- ☐ Improve Pine Cone Newsletter- look and distribution

Programming

- ☐ Provide programs for large and small school groups in a space that is comfortable.
- ☐ Provide staffing to accommodate larger school groups with limited budgets.
- ☐ Provide programming for all ages (not with schools) throughout the year.
- ☐ Provide in-depth homeschool opportunities for all age levels.

Bibliography

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